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RESOLUTION 30399

A **RESOLUTION** to promote racial justice and denounce hate in the City of Seattle

WHEREAS, the United States of America, its cities and its peoples, have experienced a horrific and devastating attack by terrorists on September 11, 2001; and cities and peoples across the United States have rallied in support of the country and all that it is founded upon; and

WHEREAS, this great country was founded on racial and religious freedoms for everyone, regardless of country of origin, native language, or chosen path to find and worship their God; and

WHEREAS, Seattle chooses to be a formidable leader in promoting racial justice and freedom and calls on all leaders throughout the United States of America to promote tolerance and decry violence and acts of hatred in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Seattle strongly condemns racial or religious harassment, or individual acts of retaliation, vigilantism, or exacting an "eye for an eye", believing that our strength lies in our unity, harmony and peaceful coexistence, with no place for hate in our community, and every person deserving the full protection of our laws; and

WHEREAS, racial and religious hate crimes are illegal and contrary to the very principle upon which this nation is founded, and the City of Seattle will not tolerate hate crimes or malicious harassment and will enforce to the fullest extent of the law, any breach in laws enacted to protect all individuals;

WHEREAS, President Bush and countless other political and religious leaders have appealed to Americans not to let their anger be misdirected at Arab Americans, or any person whose nationality, ethnicity, or religious ties them to the troubled regions of the world. The U.S. Senate has passed a resolution denouncing discrimination against Arab Americans.

WHEREAS Seattle-area mosques have received not only abusive calls but several death threats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

the Mayor and the Seattle City Council do hereby proclaim Seattle a City of Racial and Religious Equity, Appreciation and Tolerance and call upon each citizen to extend their hands in friendship, trust and understanding to all; and that further, the City of Seattle urges all people to join us in strongly resisting all acts of hate or intolerance against all people, including people of the Islamic faith and perceived Arab descent and we call on citizens of the City of Seattle to report hate crime incidents. We will not forget that we are all Americans and that now more than ever, *United We Stand, Divided We Fall!*

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2001, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2001.

President of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Paul Schell, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2001.

City Clerk

(Seal)